

Message Text

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: MASS DA

SUBJECT: DANISH DEFENSE CHIEF OPTIMISTIC ON F-16

PURCHASE

REF: COPENHAGEN 0589

1. AT A DINNER LAST NIGHT IN HIS HONOR, DANISH CHIEF OF
DEFENSE LT GEN GLIXENKRONE-MOLLER MADE THE FOLLOWING

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POINTS TO POLCOUNS ABOUT THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER PURCHASE
AND THE DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT.

2. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT AT LEAST DENMARK AND NORWAY WILL BUT THE F-16 BLIXENKRONE-MOLLER SAID THAT A LARGE MAJORITY IN THE DANISH PARLIAMENT WOULD SUPPORT THE PURCHASE INCLUDING ALMOST ALL OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND THE PARTIES ACROSS THE CENTER RIGHT INCLUDING 20 OF MOGENS GLISTRUPS 24 PROGRESSIVES. BLIXEMKRONE MOLLER WOULD NOT HOWEVER BE DRAWN INTO A PROGNOSTICATION OF A SCENARIO OR THE TIMING OF A DANISH PURCHASE.

3. BLIXEMKRONE MOLLER REMARKED IRONICALLY THAT THE POSITION OF THE FOUR MEMBERS WITHIN THE FIGHTER CONSORTIUM HAS COME FULL CIRCLE SINCE ITS INCEPTION. AT THE BEGINNING AND UNTIL THE LAST FEW MONTHS THE LIKELIHOOD OF DENMARKS PARTICPATION IN A CONSORTIUM PURCHASE OF A FIGHTER REMAINED MOST IN DOUBT. NOW BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS ARE CAUSING THE PROBLEMS. IN FACT HE SAID THE DANES WERE DISTRAUGHT OVER THE INSISTENCE OF THOSE COUNTRIES UPON YET ANOTHER "FINAL" ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE FELT THAT ALL NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSALS IN JANUARY. DENMARKS HOWEVER HAD NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CURRENT "LAST" ROUND. (COMMENT: FINAL TURNS ON THE BARGAINING RATCHET AFTER THE STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT WERE FULLY EXPECTED BY GENERAL DYNAMICS AND PRATT & WHITNEY) REPS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN)

4. AS DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER HAD DONE WITH THE AMBASSADOR (REFTEL) BLIXENKRONE MOLLER TURNED ASIDE THE SERIOUSNESS OF LABOR LEADER THOMAS NIELSENS PUBLIC SUPPORT OF THE VIGGEN, SAID THAT HE WAS UNINFORMED AND WOULD IN ANY CASE NOT BE A SERIOUS IMPEDIMENT TO CONCLUDE A CONTRACT WITH THE AMERICANS.

5. BLIXEMKRONE MOLLER ALSO EXPECTS THE PRESENT FOUR YEAR (1973-77) DEFENSE AGREEMENT TO BE EXTENDED ON ITS EXPIRATION THAT THE AGREEMENT CAUSED NATO ALLIES WHEN IT WAS PRESENTED TO THEM IN LATE 1972, IT HAS WORKED WELL. IT HAS PRACTICALLY REMOVED THE PERENIALLY DIVISIVE SUBJECT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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DEFENSE FUNDING FROM THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE. OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE IS THE BUILT IN OFFSET AGAINST INFLATION AND THE PROGRESSIVE INCREASE IN REAL TERMS FOR MATERIEL PURCHASES. HE SAID WITH S MILE THAT THE LATTER PROVISION ALTHOUGH A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD IS NOT PUBLICIZED BY THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

6' COMMENT: THE DANISH DEFENSE CHIEF IS PRO AMERICAN AND A DEDICATED OPTIMIST. WE ARE LESS SURE THAN HE THAT THE DUCKS WILL FALL SO EASILY IN PLACE ON EITHER THE FIGHTER

PURCHASE OR THE RENEWAL OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT.

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